

23 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 17 December 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Bradford (USIA), Mr. Dulles, Admiral Foster,
Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr, Mr. Herter, Mr. Quarles, Mr. Smith
Mr. Melbourne

1. Geneva Conference on Surprise Attack

The Board discussed the impending recess of the Surprise Attack talks at Geneva and the possibilities of obtaining favorable reaction abroad toward the U.S. position. The group felt that although the Soviets may be expected to try to make political capital on a large scale out of this situation, actually it will be very difficult for them to gain much ground by attacking our position.

Nonetheless, it was agreed that all efforts should be made to assure adequate presentation of U.S. views. Mr. Herter said that the State Department has prepared a draft statement on the subject, for public release.

2. Geneva Conference on Nuclear Tests

The Board agreed that this conference seems to be progressing more favorably than the one on Surprise Attack, and that indications are that it has merely adjourned for the Christmas holidays and not come to a complete halt.

3. Soviet Propaganda on Economic Progress

There was further discussion of the paper prepared by the Freers Committee which recommends that the U.S. take certain actions to counter Soviet propaganda on the USSR's rate of economic progress.

NSC review(s) completed.

SECRET EYES ONLY

290198

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

Mr. Harr undertook to bring to the attention of the individuals responsible for drafting preliminary versions of the State of the Union message and the President's Economic Report to Congress, the view of the OCB that these documents might be an appropriate place for inclusion of certain statements designed to counter extravagant Soviet claims. Mr. Herter said that he would bring this matter to the attention of Mr. Dillon so that the latter's office can investigate further actions which might be taken.

4. Policy toward Communist China

Mr. Harr pointed out that there is no single policy paper on Communist China and suggested that this fact might be brought to the attention of the NSC.

In the ensuing discussion the point was developed that although no single paper exists there is a great deal of policy enunciation and guidance in a number of existing papers. Mr. Dulles suggested that it might be worthwhile as a starter to pull together all the bits and pieces of the existing policy papers which bear on the Chinese Communist problem.

5. Chinese Communes

Continuing discussion of previous weeks, the group then turned to the Chinese communes program. It was agreed that this program provides an extremely good point of departure for U.S. psychological exploitation on a world-wide basis and that a special ad hoc working group should be set up within the OCB framework in order to develop a systematic plan for such exploitation. The DCI said that much background data is available for the use of such a committee.

6. Report on Action taken by the Soviet Central Committee

Mr. Herter reported that Mr. Cumming had said at that morning's staff meeting in the State Department that a report which had just come in on the ticker indicated that the Soviet Central Committee might be considering agricultural resolutions which seemed to have implications for the Soviet Union somewhat similar to the Chinese Commune program.

(Later information clarified this report. It was based on certain cooperative efforts being proposed in the Soviet Union but they do not have implications similar to those of the Chinese program.)

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

7. Invitation to Dr. Bronk

Mr. Gray said that Dr. Detlev Bronk has received an invitation to join the Russian Academy of Science and that he has requested guidance as to whether or not to accept the invitation. The consensus of the meeting was that Dr. Bronk should not be urged to accept the invitation but that the State Department should investigate the matter fully before coming to a final decision. Mr. Gray said that Dr. Bronk would undoubtedly decline unless urged to do otherwise by the State Department.

8. Mr. Harr's Briefing of the NSC

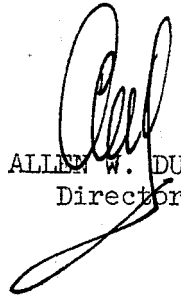
Mr. Harr referred to a recent meeting of the NSC at which he had briefed the Council on the OCB progress report for Libya. He said that unfortunately some of his remarks might have been construed as being critical of certain members of the OCB.

Mr. Harr requested the advice of the group as to how he should proceed in similar situations in the future. The Board did not undertake to give Mr. Harr precise or definitive guidance on this point, but opinions were expressed that matters of this kind require delicate handling at the NSC meetings.

9. Proposed AEC Laboratory Demonstrations

Admiral Foster distributed a memorandum giving the background of a proposed laboratory demonstration of relatively clean nuclear devices which had been planned by the AEC for foreign scientists. He said that the Department of State had informed the AEC that very little interest has been shown on the part of the foreign governments in sending observers to such a demonstration. He said further that the President's statement of August 22, 1958, concerning a test moratorium, and the Geneva conference now underway, had changed the situation to such an extent that the AEC felt that a demonstration would no longer be in the best interests of the U.S. He recommended that the proposal be cancelled.

The Board concurred in this recommendation. Mr. Harr said that he would attempt to secure White House approval of the cancellation.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~